

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the interview afforded by Examiner Almeida for the purpose of discussing a proposed amendment and the relevance of the cited prior art.

As a consequence of the interview, claims 1, 2, 4 and 9, as amended, are pending herein. Claim 3 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof were incorporated into claims 1, 2 and 9. Claims 6-8 have also been cancelled and the limitations thereof incorporated into claim 2. In addition, as discussed at the interview, independent claims 1, 2, and 9 have been amended to specify that the list of authorized applications for the computer user is stored in a database of the multi-user system as described in the specification in the paragraph beginning at line 4 on page 10 and as shown in Fig. 3.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 are the independent claims in the application. They relate to a method and system for controlling the applications that a user may run on his computer which is connected with a computer network. This increases the efficiency of the network and allows a particular computer user to be restricted only to run applications to which he is authorized.

More particularly, a security executable in user mode is utilized to create a list of authorized applications in a database on the network ("multi-user system") for the user, with a hook function being attached to all new applications when the computer user logs onto the network. The hook function is used to send a message including the ID for each application. The system is somewhat interactive in that the list of authorized IDs is automatically queried when the user seeks to initiate an application to determine whether the ID for the application to be initiated is within the list of authorized applications. If so, the security executable "answers" the query by allowing the user to have access to the application. If not, the application to be initiated is terminated, whereby the user is prevented from running the application. By performing the operations in user mode, the network is not burdened.

An example of the subject invention involves remote access of multiple computer users of a computer server which contains software applications such as Microsoft Word and Excel to be run by the various computer users. These applications are not resident on

the user's computer. The user can use any or all of the applications which such user is authorized to run.

The Winneg et al method and system securely executes an application on a computer system such that the user of the computer system can not access unauthorized content available on the system or view content accessible via the system. It essentially is a blocking system, preventing a computer user from obtaining "outside" information when the computer is utilized in a testing environment. Normally, a computer user would have access to information stored on the computer or accessible via the computer when the user is taking a test online or otherwise via the computer. This is analogous to an open book exam. Winneg discloses a system and method for creating a "closed book exam" environment by denying the computer user access to information stored on the computer's hard drive or accessible via the Internet. It is not interactive in that there is no inquiry regarding allowed applications or information, no comparison of the inquiry ID to stored IDs, and no granting of access to allowed applications. Rather, Winneg essentially creates a brick wall, denying access to the computer user to all programs other than those necessary to take the exam.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in Winneg of all elements of applicant's invention as recited in claims 1, 2, 4, and 9, and Winneg is therefore not a proper ground for rejection of applicant's claims under §102. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 is respectfully requested.

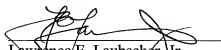
It is applicant's understanding that the amendments to the claims will be entered and serve to patentably define over the prior art.

Allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, and 9 is courteously solicited.

Please charge any government fees required for entry of this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1936.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marianne G. Smith

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